



Middle School

National FFA Organization

Lesson MS.70

PROFICIENCY AWARDS AND SAE

Unit. SAE—an Integral Component of Agricultural Education

Problem Area. Understanding Supervised Agricultural Experiences

Precepts.

National Standards. NL-ENG.K12.11 — Participating in Society — Students participate as knowledgeable, reflective, creative and critical members of a variety of literacy communities.



Student Learning Objectives. As a result of this lesson, the student should be able to ...

- 1 Explain the FFA degree, proficiency award, and Agriscience recognition programs.
- 2 Explain one proficiency award area.





Time. Instruction for this lesson: 50 minutes.



Resources

Web site of North Carolina State University SAE.
www.cals.ncsu.edu/agexed/sae/toolbox/



Tools, Equipment, and Supplies

- ✓ 3 × 5 index cards
- ✓ Miniature candy bars
- ✓ National FFA Chapter Guide CD
- ✓ MS.70.Assess—one per student



Key Terms. The following terms are presented in this lesson and appear in bold italics:

- Degree program
- Proficiency awards
- Agriscience recognition program



Interest Approach

Students are motivated by recognition. The FFA offers many opportunities for students to be recognized for their SAE efforts. FFA's recognition programs for SAE are primarily found in the areas of proficiency awards, degree programs, and agriscience recognition. If they are to receive the recognition they deserve, it is important that you guide and mentor your students as they select their areas of interest. Recognition for these programs is available at the local, state, and national levels.



As we begin our lesson today, we are going to start by playing a game you should be familiar with called Jeopardy. On the writing surface, I have written the following categories:

- Agriculture
- SAE
- Record keeping
- Career



Over the next few minutes, I want you write on the 3 × 5 index cards at your desk up to three facts you have learned in each of these categories. Write a question for each fact as well. You will have 180 seconds. Start now!



Time is up! Turn in your cards. You are now divided into two even teams based on where you sit in the classroom. We will rotate back and forth, with each question having a dollar value based on the question's difficulty. The winning team will receive a miniature candy bar. Let's begin!



This can be a lot of fun for the students and get their competitive spirit moving.

SUMMARY OF CONTENT AND TEACHING STRATEGIES

Objective 1. Explain the FFA degree, proficiency award, and agriscience recognition programs.

I. FFA SAE-related award programs



FFA provides recognition for students in many different activities. One area of great importance is SAE. Every agricultural education student is expected to have an SAE. Now that you have selected your SAE, it is time for you learn about the recognition programs.

A. Degree program

1. Definition

The **degree program** is FFA's primary recognition program. There are five degrees of FFA membership as follows: Discovery, Greenhand, Chapter, State, and American. These five degree areas recognize you for your overall participation in FFA. Everything you do in FFA, when combined, helps you move toward a degree. The degrees for which you would be eligible are Discovery and Greenhand.

Share copies of both award applications. These applications can be found either on the FFA CD or the FFA Web site. Take a few minutes to review these with your students. It is important that they understand that degrees are something that a student works on over a period of years.

Activity: Have each student complete the personal information section on the appropriate degree application. You should collect and file them for periodic updating.

B. Proficiency awards

1. Definition

Proficiency awards are awards that recognize students for excellence in SAE. They are:

- a. Based on your SAE program
- b. The most diverse award program FFA offers
- c. Split into two general categories: entrepreneurship or owning your own business, and placement or working for someone else

Currently in the year 2003, there are 48 such proficiency award recognition areas that cover the total agricultural industry. Refer to your official FFA manual to review the many different areas. Recognition is available at the chapter, state, and national levels.



C. Agriscience recognition program

1. Definition

The **agriscience recognition program** is specifically targeted to recognize students who have participated in an agriscience research area. Awards recognition is available at the chapter, state, and national levels.

Activity: Have each student go the National FFA Web site and search for information on a recent national winner. Each student should prepare a paragraph review of what they learned about that winner. Students could work in pairs for this activity.

Objective 2. Explain one proficiency award area.



Currently there are 48 proficiency award recognition areas for the year 2003. The awards recognize students for excellence in SAE. Your assignment for this section of the lesson is to utilize the resources we have in the classroom—FFA official manual, FFA Student Handbook, and FFA Web site—to learn all you can about one proficiency award area. You will work in pairs for this exercise. Choose your partner. You will prepare a one-page, double-spaced report on your proficiency award area. Each pair must have a different award area. You will also prepare a poster to explain your findings to the class. You will share a two- to three-minute report of your findings with your classmates. You may begin.

This project should take a couple of days to complete.

Write the following on a writing surface:

The key points to remember about proficiency awards are that they are:

- Based on your SAE program
- The most diverse award program FFA offers
- Split into two general categories: entrepreneurship or owning your own business, and placement or working for someone else
- Your SAE program, and thus your proficiency award area, should reflect your occupational goals.



Review/Summary

Have the students answer the following questions in their notebooks:

1. What is a proficiency award?
2. What is an agriscience award?
3. What is the FFA degree program?



Application

► Extended Classroom Activity:

Have each student find the name of a student from his or her home state or region who has been a finalist in a proficiency award area. Have each student write a brief summary of that finalist's program.

► FFA Activity:

Already covered.

► SAE Activity:

Already covered.

✓ Evaluation

Answers to Assessment:

1. e
2. b
3. d
4. a
5. c



PROFICIENCY AWARDS AND SAE

► Matching

Instructions: Match the following terms with the appropriate definition.

- a. proficiency awards
- b. FFA
- c. degree
- d. agriscience awards
- e. occupational

- _____ 1. Your SAE program should reflect these goals.
- _____ 2. The proficiency awards are the most diverse award program offered by this group.
- _____ 3. This program is specifically targeted to recognize students who have participated in an agriscience research area.
- _____ 4. This program recognizes students for excellence in SAE
- _____ 5. FFA's primary recognition program.

